

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-23 are pending in the present application.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, and 11-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Force et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0130945, hereinafter Force) in view of Ng (U.S. Patent No. 4,627,019), and further in view of Yamamoto (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0088677); Claims 3, 4, 7-10, and 14-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Force in view of Ng, and further in view of Benson et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 20003/0200212, hereinafter Benson) and Yamamoto; and Claims 16-23 were rejected under the same rationale as Claims 1-8.

Applicants respectfully traverse the outstanding ground of rejection because the outstanding Office Action fails to provide a *prima facie* case of obviousness by asserting prior art that, no matter how the prior art references are combined, does not teach every element of independent Claims 1-8 and 16-23.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*,

An information-processing apparatus including a module which provides one or more clients with a function that needs exclusive access control in which user information stored in the information-processing apparatus is exclusively read or updated by a client through authentication, comprising:

a session management unit configured to manage a series of session processing steps and incidental information in a state **where a session with a client is maintained by extending a time-out period, which indicates how long the incidental information is stored, by an amount based on the function that needs exclusive access control....**

Force, Ng, and Yamamoto, taken alone or in proper combination, do not disclose or suggest at least the above-noted elements of Claim 1.

As indicated by the bolded language, Claim 1 is directed toward an information processor that is maintaining a session with a client. The session management unit is part of the information processor and is **not part of the client side**. As indicated by the bolded language above, the session management unit (which performs the extending of the time-out period) maintains a session with the client. Thus, in Claim 1, the “extending a time-out period, which indicates how long the incidental information is stored, by an amount based on the function that needs exclusive access control” **is not executed on the client side**.

The outstanding Office Action acknowledges that Force and Ng “do not explicitly teach by extending a time-out period, which indicates how long the incidental information is stored, by an amount based on the function that needs exclusive access control.”¹ The outstanding Office Action relies on Yamamoto to cure the deficiencies in Force and Ng.

However, Yamamoto describes a client-server relationship in which a session between the client and server may time-out. Yamamoto describes that a **user on the client side** is provided with a window that presents a time-out value normally contained in the HTTP session object. The **user on the client side** can use the window to enter an additional amount of time to keep the session pending.²

Yamamoto is different than invention defined by Claim 1 because Yamamoto describes having a user on the client side extend a session, while the invention defined by Claim 1 has the session management unit of an information-processing apparatus (which is opposite to the client) extend the time-out period.

Thus, Yamamoto does not disclose or suggest the claimed “a session management unit configured to manage a series of session processing steps and incidental information in a state where a session with a client is maintained by extending a time-out period, which

¹ Office Action, page 5.

² Yamamoto, paragraph [0058].

indicates how long the incidental information is stored, by an amount based on the function that needs exclusive access control.”

Since neither Force, Ng, nor Yamamoto disclose or suggest the claimed “a session management unit configured to manage a series of session processing steps and incidental information in a state where a session with a client is maintained by extending a time-out period, which indicates how long the incidental information is stored, by an amount based on the function that needs exclusive access control,” Applicants respectfully submit that a person of ordinary skill in the art could not properly combine the descriptions in Force, Ng, and Yamamoto to arrive at the claimed invention.

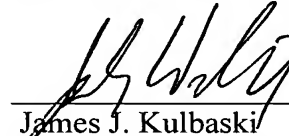
In view of the above-noted distinctions, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 patentably distinguishes over Force, Ng, and Yamamoto, taken alone or in proper combination. Claims 2-8 and 16-23 recite elements analogous to those of Claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 2-8 and 16-23 (and any claims dependent thereon) patentably distinguish over Force, Ng, and Yamamoto, taken alone or in proper combination, for at least the reasons stated for Claim 1.

Addressing each of the further rejections, each of the further rejections is also traversed by the present response as no teachings in any of the further cited references to Benson can overcome the above-noted deficiencies of Force, Ng, and Yamamoto. As explained in the response filed on May 16, 2007, Benson does not disclose or suggest the claimed “a session management unit configured to manage a series of session processing steps and incidental information in a state where a session with a client is maintained by extending a time-out period, which indicates how long the incidental information is stored, by an amount based on the function that needs exclusive access control.” Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that those rejections be withdrawn for similar reasons as discussed above.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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